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TRANSFORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME INTO AN EXECUTIVE BOARD

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In paragraph 30 of annex I to its resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly decided that the same arrangements as those relating to the governing bodies of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) should apply to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the World Food Programme (WFP), and that consultations between the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) should be undertaken as soon as possible for that purpose, in view of the fact that WFP is an autonomous joint organ of both. This process should lead to the adoption of parallel resolutions by the General Assembly and the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

2. In paragraphs 21 to 30 of annex I to its resolution 48/162, the Assembly outlined the arrangements to be followed with respect to the governing bodies of United Nations development funds and programmes. The Assembly decided that the governing bodies of UNDP/UNFPA and of UNICEF should be transformed into Executive Boards, subject to the authority of the Economic and Social Council. The Assembly also specified the functions of each of the Executive Boards and provided for the holding of and participation in the annual sessions and regular meetings of the Executive Boards. The Assembly stipulated that the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and, subject to the provisions of paragraph 30, WFP should have 36 members each, and provided for the regional allocation of seats. In order to ensure effective and efficient interaction between the Assembly, the

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3. Council and the individual Executive Boards, each Board will submit an annual report on its programmes and activities to the Council at its substantive session. The report will include a section which follows a common structure on the basis of specific areas designated by the Council or the Assembly.

4. At its thirty-seventh session, in May 1994, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of WFP considered the question of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/162. The Committee agreed that the implementation of the resolution was binding on the Committee and recalled that in paragraph 30 of annex I to the resolution, the Assembly recognized that WFP was an autonomous joint organ of both the United Nations and FAO. The Committee decided to establish an open-ended working group, open to all committee members, and the European Community as an observer, to consider and make recommendations on the changes to the WFP general regulations and rules of procedure that might be necessary in order to implement Assembly resolution 48/162. The Committee agreed that the working group would also consider necessary changes in the WFP general regulations that would arise from the shift from the present project-based approach to a country-based programme approach, as specified in Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992.

5. The working group met on four occasions and submitted its report to the Committee at its thirty-eighth session, held in Rome from 12 to 16 December 1994. In its deliberations, the working group consulted with and was advised by the secretariats of the United Nations and FAO, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 30 of Assembly resolution 48/162.

6. At its thirty-eighth session, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes decided to recommend a draft resolution for consideration by the Economic and Social Council and the FAO Council. The text of the draft resolution will be made available to the Council upon receipt.

7. In accordance with paragraph 30 of annex I to Assembly resolution 48/162, a series of consultations have been held between the secretariats of the United Nations and FAO. Following these consultations, and with regard to the future steps to be taken in fulfilment of the requirements of the resolution, the attention of the Council is drawn to the need for the Economic and Social Council and the FAO Council to agree on an appropriate mechanism for consultations between the United Nations and FAO at the intergovernmental level. The recommendations made by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes at its thirty-eighth session will no doubt form the basis of the consultations between the United Nations and FAO. This process should lead to the adoption of parallel resolutions by the General Assembly and the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.